

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 17, 18 and 21-25 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1 and 2 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, Claims 19 and 20 having been canceled, and Claims 17 and 25 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities; the specification was objected to for informalities; Claims 17-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not enabling to one skilled in the relevant art; Claims 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; Claims 17, 18 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burns (U.S. Patent 5,850,773); Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns in view of Kraus (U.S. Patent 4,007,520); and Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns in view of Logan et al. (U.S. Patent 4,262,417).

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request that Claim 20 be canceled without prejudice.

Submitted herewith is a separate LETTER SUBMITTING DRAWING SHEET(S), submitting for approval changes to Figure 2. Specifically, Figure 2 has been amended to add Reference Character (S) and Reference Numerals 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b and 8c in original Figure 2, and the specification has been amended in consistent with the drawing change requested above. These amendments are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed, and thus are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

With regard to the objection of the specification and the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, the specification and Claims 17 and 25 have been amended based on Applicants' specification and drawings, for example, Figure 2, and Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled. These amendments and cancellation in the specification and claims are believed to overcome the objection and rejections above.

Before addressing the outstanding art rejections, a brief review of Claim 17 as currently amended is believed to be helpful. Claim 17 is directed to a method for cutting an optical fiber, and the method includes the steps of moving a cutting blade by drive force so as to transit a center portion of an optical fiber, preventing acceleration of the cutting blade after the cutting blade transits the center of the optical fiber, and automatically stopping transmission of the drive force to the cutting blade.

Burns, Kraus and Logan et al. disclose an apparatus for cutting a wire, a process for the production of an electric stack or layer capacitor, and a tool for cleaving fiber optic elements, respectively. However, none of these references is believed to teach "automatically stopping transmission of said drive force to said cutting blade" as recited in amended Claim 17. Burns discloses the clutch 28 but is not believed to disclose a mechanism for automatically stopping the movement of the arm 42 when cutting is finished. Therefore, the subject matter recited in amended Claim 17 is believed to be distinguishable from Burns, Kraus and Logan et al., and thus the method recited in Claim 17 is not believed to be rendered obvious by these references.

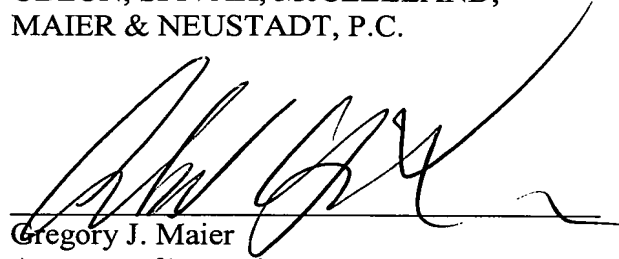
For the foregoing reasons, Claim 17 is believed to be allowable. In addition, because Claims 18 and 21-25 ultimately depend from Claim 17, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Thus, Claims 18 and 21-25 are believed to be allowable as well.

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In view of the amendment submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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